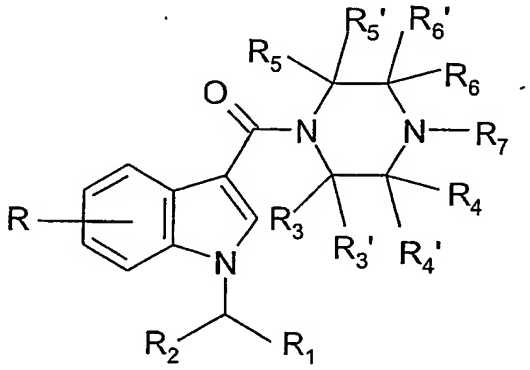
Claims.

1. An 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative having the general formula I



Formula I

wherein

R represents 1-4 substituents independently selected from H, (C_{1-4})alkyl (optionally substituted with halogen), (C_{1-4})alkyloxy (optionally substituted with halogen), halogen, OH, NH_2, CN and NO_2;

R_1 is (C_{5-8})cycloalkyl or (C_{5-8})cycloalkenyl;

R_2 is H, methyl or ethyl;

R_3, R_3', R_4' R_4', R_5, R_5' and R_6' are independently hydrogen or (C_{1-4})alkyl, optionally substituted with (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, halogen or OH;

R_6 is hydrogen or (C_{1-4})alkyl, optionally substituted with (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, halogen or OH; or

R_6 forms together with R_7 a 4-7 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from O and S;

R_7 forms together with R_6 a 4-7 membered saturated heterocyclic ring, optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from O and S; or

R_7 is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl or (C_{3-5})cycloalkyl, the alkyl groups being optionally substituted with OH, halogen or (C_{1-4})alkyloxy; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative of claim 1, wherein R_2 is H and R_1 is (C_{5-6})cycloalkyl.

3. The 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative of claim 2, wherein R is (C_{1-4})alkyl-oxy or halogen.

4 The 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative of claim 3, wherein R represents a methoxy group at the 7-position of the indole ring.

5. The 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative of claim 4, wherein R_3, R_3', R_4', R_5, R_5' and R_6' are H; R_4, R_6 and R_7 are independently H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or R_6 forms together with R_7 a 5- or 6-membered saturated heterocyclic ring and R_4 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl.

6. The 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative according to formula I of claim 1 which is selected from:

- 1-{[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-7-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl]carbonyl}-3,5-dimethyl-4-ethylpiperazine;
- 1-{[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-7-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl]carbonyl}-3,4,5-trimethylpiperazine;
- (*S*)-1-{[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-7-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl]carbonyl}-3,4-dimethylpiperazine;
- (*S*)-2-{[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-7-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl]carbonyl}-octahydro-2*H*-pyrido-[1, 2-a]pyrazine;
- (*S*)-2-{[1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-7-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl]carbonyl}-octahydro-2*H*-pyrrolo-[1, 2-a]pyrazine; and
- (*S*)-2-{[1-(cyclopentylmethyl)l-7-methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl]carbonyl}-octahydro-2*H*-pyrido-[1, 2-a]pyrazine;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative of any one of claims 1-6 for use in therapy.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative of any one of claims 1-6 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

9. Use of an 1-[(indol-3-yl)carbonyl]piperazine derivative of formula I as defined in claim 1, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of pain.